

Colliery. This boiler is in full work night and day, except for six hours each Sunday, when it is blown off to clean; this has now gone on for two years.

It may be interesting to note the actual work performed by the steam from this boiler, as it embraces the whole moving plant of the mine, and will give those interested a clear understanding as to the result of any mishap to our only steam producer. I will note the actual work performed in one week, thus:—1,000 tons of coal raised, a height of 290 feet up the shaft.

147,000 gallons of water raised 300 feet out of the mine.

500 waggons of Coal (2 tons each) lowered from the mine to the sea, and the empty waggons hauled to the Colliery again, a distance of one mile each way, equal to 1,000 miles of single wagon traffic on the railway.

74 miles per week of underground haulage are performed by engine power and ropes, bringing 3,000 Coal tubs to the shaft bottom and returning them to their various stations in the mine.

150,000,000 cubic feet of impure air exhausted from the mine per week by a mechanical fan worked by a small engine. 6,000 running feet of timber for Colliery purposes cut by a circular saw per week.

2,000 men lowered and an equal number raised per week, equal to 4,000 men passed up and down the shaft.

Approximately of the above, I may state that above 90,000 men have been lowered and raised into and from the Colliery, making over 180,000 risks during the year 1879, with not a single accident to record to life or limb in the shaft or in the underground workings. The three engines in use are all handled by Native workmen, superintended by an English Colliery engineer.

The underground work in the Colliery goes steadily on. In two districts the pillars of Coal are being removed and new Coal won at the same time. Preparations are in active progress in another district to remove the Coal by "long wall" working. This system remains to be tried here yet, but no doubts are entertained as to the eventual success; the results to be obtained by this mode of working being a greater proportion of round Coal.

Three self-acting inclines bring the Coal from the two dip engine banks convey the Coal "up" to the shaft level. The "main and tail rope system" of underground haulage is in use on the level.

The work of underground supervision is becoming more arduous as some miles of galleries are to be daily traversed by the English overseer.

An improved double screen has lately been added to the Colliery plant, which separates the Coal into three qualities and delivers it into three waggons at the same time. These three waggons are named respectively round, nuts, and duff. Attached to the screen is an apparatus for saving the breakage of the large Coal in its descent from the screen to the bottom of the wagon. This apparatus is also employed to regulate the price per tub of Coal paid to the hewer, and has a most beneficial effect in inducing the coal-hewer to produce more round Coal, as a certain weight of large Coal only will overcome the balance weight attached; the hewer receiving a larger price for such tubs as weigh down the tray.

The total quantity of Coal raised during the year 1879 was 30,046 tons, being an increase over that raised in 1878 of 14,929 tons. The estimated value of the Colliery's produce for the past year, taking wages and small Coal into account, and calculating \$2.50 per ton throughout the year as an average rate, will be \$75,113.

During the past year the European working staff has been lessened by eight men, who have gone home, time expired. The total European staff now consists of three underground overseers, one surface engineer, one mining engineer (self), and a Colliery surgeon. This staff is sufficient for the present, so long as sickness does not interfere with their duties. I have pleasure in stating that the most kindly feeling exists between the European and Chinese staffs, and the work goes on smoothly. The Chinese are steadily improving in the use of tools, engines, and, placed in their hands, and in their general knowledge of advanced mining.

The railway from the Colliery to the sea, and the self-acting "coal-lifting apparatus" in connection therewith, work admirably; so much so that the cost in wages in transporting a ton of Coal from the Colliery to the sea, and putting it into a coal-boat, does not reach four cents; the distance being exactly one mile; the above covers the return journey of the trucks.

Numerous workmen's houses are springing up on all sides, giving to the neighbourhood a prosperous and business-like appearance.

A strongly marked change, imparting a vigorous tone to Colliery affairs, has within the last month come over us, which can only be ascribed to the relinquishing by the Colliery officials of that obstructive attitude of passive resistance which has all along marked the brief life of this enterprise. For the first time since I undertook this work, my arrangements have met with no official opposition for about a month past; the result is the Colliery output is doubled, and, according to the paymaster, a considerable profit will accrue from our last month's working. Not only has the quantity of Coal so largely increased, but its marketable value is much enhanced by the greater care the hewers are now bestowing on the production of large Coal, consequent on the rearrangement of prices with regard to large and small Coal, a measure I have advocated unceasingly for long, but to deaf ears until lately.

A serious drawback to progress at the Colliery is the want of some one to sanction, without delay, the expenditure of money where it is considered imperative by the Mining Engineer-in-Charge. I cannot hope for the full measure of success if the delays which I have experienced in important Colliery matters are continued.

CHINESE NOTES.

Every year the Board of War memorializes the Emperor to appoint certain Supervisors of Fasts, (香齋大臣), military officers, ten or so in number, whose duty it is to go in turns the round of the *yamens* on fast-days, to see that the officers are at their posts and that the fast-altar is in order.

The ancient name of the 阜城 gate at Peking is still used by the populace as in the Ming Dynasty. It is called the 平則 Gate, but the better-informed say that it should be 平賊 or "Conqueror's Gate" or *Porte de la Victoire*. This would seem to show that 300 years ago *fat* was a more colloquial pronunciation of 賊 than *tsai*.

We have stated elsewhere that a paid licentiate or *linshing* (*la foriori* *siute'ai*), is only on the border of officialdom. He has not a *kungming* proper, and cannot wear the *man pao* (蟒袍). On the other hand an "expectant second-class ninth button" or even an "expectant indefinite," (候補未入流), may wear the garment, and has a *rank* or official position. If his father or grandfather who has no office dies, he is a 封職. A year or two ago an expectant ninth button could be bought for Tls. 10, or half the amount of the coat which the happy official must wear on grand occasions. A *chüan* (舉人), has a *kungming*, and belongs to the second class seventh rank.

Certain communications are addressed by the Viceroy and Governors, not only to the Board, but also to the Supervising Censors, (給事中); this is what is meant by the term 咨明部科. The Supervising Censor of the Board of War would be called the 兵科. These Censors are the Emperor's eyes and ears—in fact, spies on the Board. In speaking of the Boards the lesser Provincial Authorities, such as the Treasurer and Judge, frequently use the term 大部.

It would be wrong to estimate the revenue of China from the trumped up reports sent to the Emperor. From placards posted in Canton, it appears that the local bureau at the large village of 小礮 (the native place of the Foo-chow Viceroy 何), collects Tls. 34,000 a year to defray local expenses.

We have already remarked upon the term 便宜行事, which simply means "armed with full powers." The Viceroy occasionally sends a military officer armed with a 王令 or "arrow," giving him power of life and death.

A good Cantonese term for "tender" (in contracts) is 落標. An "offer" in advance to farm a business, (like the Hongkong option *shai*), for the next year is 預投年分. It is worth while noting such terms as these.

The anniversary of a deceased parent's birth is his 生忌, and that of his death his 死忌. These may be called *dies nefasti*. On the 100th anniversary of the parent's birth the grandsons cease to keep it; this is called 忌忌, or "closing the *nefas*," but children must go on observing the occasion for ever.

An assistant-magistrate (縣丞) speaks of himself to equals or inferiors as 本分縣, whilst a deputy-magistrate, (巡檢), will, at least sometimes, use the expression 本縣. Fashan is a curious instance of the jurisdiction of an independent sub-prefect, (同知), being within that of his inferior, the Nanhai District Magistrate. The immediate superior of this anomalous personage is the 提道. It is said that he uses the term 移 in corresponding with the Prefect.

A 封職 is a man whose son or grandson holds an official appointment or rank, no matter how high or low.

In support of the view that *ze* is preferable to *sai* we may quote the assertion of Professor Max Müller, who says that "there is no difficulty in pronouncing *ze*, without the assistance of a real vowel."

The rule is that all persons who have purchased office, or are waiting selection at the Board, must be inspected, (驗看), either by the Board or their own Provincial Authorities before they can be appointed to a Province, (分發).

The homely saying "handsome is as handsome does," or its antithesis "*honi soit qui mal y pense*," is fairly expressed in Chinese by 金口噴人 "it is the foulmouthed person who abuses people," or "he only is able to bespatter people with blood because he has a mouthful of it."

A poster in Canton, accusing an official of extortion, gives an instance of the Chinese oath. The accused is challenged to go to the Temple and take the oath, (去廟盟誓), that the accusations against him are false. The way it is done is as follows: The accuser and accused stand facing each other with a live cock on the table. The accused strikes off the head of the bird with a knife, and says: "May I be as that cock if I say I am false." Thus ends his purgation, which amounts to "I'll be d—d if I am lying."

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

The next American Mail may be expected to arrive here on or about the 21st inst., by the P. M. Co.'s steamer *City of Tokyo*.

ORDER OF SERVICE AT THE CATHEDRAL TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY. Morning.—Verses, No. 1 M. N. Psalm, No. 94 and 95; Te Deum, Barby; Jubilate, No. 125; Anthem, "Lord for thy teacher me call," (sake); Hymn, No. 324. Even Songs.—Verses, 95 and 97; Magnificat, Saint Dunstan, (sake); Hymn, No. 264; Hymn, No. 223.

We are requested to note that the hour for evening service in St. Peter's Church has been changed from 6 to 5 o'clock.

We are informed by the Agents (Messrs Jardine, Matheson & Co.) that the steamship *Suez* left Singapore for this port to-day (16th October.)

We are asked to state that as judgment in the *Tracy* case will be delivered at ten o'clock on Monday, jurors summoned for the Session need not attend till half-past ten.

Rev. Mr. Sheehy, a native of India and the first Brahmin converted to Christianity, who will be remembered as passing through Hongkong some months ago, had, according to advices received to-day, arrived safely at San Francisco and was announced to hold week-day service in Calvary Church.

The Government closed the Custom House and other public offices at Sydney in honour of Sir Hercules Robinson who had come to his old constituents there, the other day. A report of Sir Hercules Robinson's speech will be found in our fourth page the great popularity of the guest brought about a most successful and brilliant meeting.

We are requested to make a preliminary intimation regarding the forthcoming Annual Regatta. It will take place this year on Friday and Saturday, 17th and 18th December, and intending competitors are requested to put down their names on a list provided for the purpose at the V.R.O. Boat-house.

More official than one, we hear, have been looking up the subject of Lübel with a view to ascertaining how far a statement that one or other of them was seen prowling about the streets is an attempt at disguise at an unlooked-for hour of the night, could be used as a ground for action. They do not seem, however, to have yet settled amongst themselves, or to their own satisfaction, the preliminary question of whom the *owp* was intended to be, nor whom it fit best. We should be glad to hear that our contemporary's three-line squib came to something, for, as the phrase goes, interesting developments might be looked for.

THE C. M. S. N. Co.'s steamer the *Ho Ching* arrived to-day from San Francisco via Honolulu. The whole of her passenger accommodation was engaged at the port, and she brought no passengers from the big ship. Her cargo consisted of 600 or 700 tons of flour. She brings from Honolulu 275 passengers. By latest advices we learn that Tang King Sing, the accredited agent of the company, who is the brother of Tang King Sing, the General Manager of the China Merchant Steamship Company, was busy engaged receiving the heads of the principal Chinese firms. On the 3rd, a dinner was tendered to him by the Consul General, Chan Shu Tang, and on the following evening he was the guest of the Tung Wo firm, the agents of the steamer.

The *Daily Press*, with reference to the exclusion of our Reporter from the recent proceedings in Chambers in the Pitman & Keenly case, has unearthed a provision from the Code of Civil Procedure, Sec. 45, to the effect that "the Court may order any proceedings in Chambers to be heard in private." The quotation does not apply in the slightest to the case in point, because Mr. Justice Stowell's remarks were virtually an intimation that unless the parties in the case consented he would not order the proceedings to be held with open doors, which would be contrary to the practice that has grown up here and has never once been departed from that we know of. We should, however, have been glad to have had Mr. Francis' reasons for objecting to the presence of the Reporters been laid before the Court and a formal order made thereon. It would be well, as our contemporary suggests, to test the question when a worthy occasion arises whether the fair reading of the above provision is that the public and the representatives of the Press have the right to be present at all proceedings in Chambers, save and except at such special proceedings as they are by a formal order of the Court precluded from attending.

The weather has been of a boisterous nature again all day to-day, and is getting rougher as the evening approaches. There has been little communication during the day between the shipping and the shore, and most of the steamers, &c., still keep to their places of refuge. The steamers *Chin-kang*, *Nama* and *Japan* are anchored near Tse-mah-ü, the *Moray* near the Comptroller's Dock, the *Rinjandianhar* near St. Andrew's Island. The *Johang* was near the Wharf, where she had come to discharge some tea. The *Japan*, and the *Moray*, for Singapore and Calcutta, have postponed their departure, as have also the *Bel-terophane* London, C.T. Hook for Haiphong, the *Glennary* for London, and other vessels.

Only one vessel, the *Zambesi* for Shanghai, has left the port to-day. The *Shang* went to Canton in the afternoon, and the *Puran* goes on Monday. The *White Cloud* left at two o'clock for Mung as usual. The *Brisbane*, it will be seen from a report elsewhere has put back, considerably damaged and disabled by a typhoon encountered outside. The harbour is in a choppy, confused state, and the water is already nearly level with the top of the Praya Wall. There may be very dirty weather in store for us before Monday.

An Italian Opera was performed at the Italian Concert, this evening by the pupils of the Institution. The Opera chosen was "Cecilia," the scenes being laid in Rome under the Papal Emperors. The hero of the plot is *Pancratius*, a young patrician Christian who is persecuted and finally suffers martyrdom for adherence to Christianity. Several of the choruses were very well sung, and the young lady who took the title role, certainly showed considerable dramatic talent, besides being possessed of a very sweet though not powerful voice. Altogether the piece was a decided success, and commending the youth of the performers, the nature of the music and the general dramatic execution, was very creditable, and cannot have failed to give general pleasure to all who were present. The weather certainly did all in its power to mar the success of the undertaking, but notwithstanding the rain was quite full enough to be comfortable. We understand that the performance will be repeated shortly, to accommodate many that were unable to attend tonight, owing to the limited space of the theatre.

The Eastern & Australian (Trade) Straits) S. S. *Brisbane*, which left this port on Thursday last at 5.30 p.m., on her trip to the usual Australian ports, put back this evening, having encountered a severe typhoon and suffered serious damage. The force of the typhoon was first felt about one o'clock on the morning of Friday, and the gale raged with enormous force till about noon yesterday. First of the vessels boats were carried away; the wheel broken, and the whole steering apparatus wrecked. The *Brisbane* was swept away, the hatches broken open, and some of the cargo damaged. The cabins were flooded, and everything else at. One European quarter-master (MacIntyre) was washed overboard and drowned, while another received serious injuries. Capt. Green, late of the *Normandy*, and his officers were on board, and did good service in assisting the regular officers in the time of peril for the vessel and those on board. The typhoon having passed, the *Brisbane* put about at one o'clock this morning, and arrived here late this evening.

The Chinese steamer *Hoching* reports: Left San Francisco Sea 2nd inst. Left Honolulu on the 21st; had fine weather with moderate easterly winds until Oct. 13th, 100 miles East of Bashee Island; then had a heavy N.E. gale with very heavy sea running. Have ship to the wind; for 27 hours hard gale, thence to port strong E.N.E. wind, with constant rain and heavy sea.

We are requested to state that His Eminence Cardinal Monaco de Valtorta has written to His Lordship Mgr. Raimondi, acknowledging the receipt of \$90, being St. Peter's Pence collected in this Colony and sent to Rome in July last by His Lordship. His Eminence adds that His Holiness was very much pleased with this new proof of veneration of the Catholics of Hongkong, and sends to all the contributors His Apostolic Blessing.—*Catholic Register*.

Two years ago the Japanese Government sent to San Francisco one of its best educated and most promising young men, Y. Shimura, for the special purpose of gaining a practical insight into the workings of our Customs and revenue system. Every assistance was afforded him by the Collector and his subordinates, and during the year of his stay he made himself thoroughly familiar with the manner of transacting business on the wharves, in the warehouses, and in all the departments, and won many friends among the officials by his general amiable address, general intelligence, and quick comprehension. Mr. Shimura, who is a good English scholar and speaks our language fluently, has translated the United States Customs regulations into Japanese, and has recently been appointed Deputy Surveyor of the port of Yokohama.—*San Francisco Paper*.

SINGAPORE seems to suffer as much as Hongkong from a plague of beggars:—The beggar nuisance has lately become so unbearable that something should be done to effectually check it. Do most of the beggars that infest our streets, and besiege the town residents' doors on Sunday escape from the paper hospital? As they are not so plentiful on ordinary week-days, it would always seem as though they were permitted free ingress and egress. Yesterday, we are informed, a letter in an advanced stage of the disease, was to be seen begging from door to door, and fairly blocking the doorway of shop-houses, persistently demanding alms, with which doubtless to procure opium. Surely, it is possible to enforce such rules in the hospital as will prevent the periodical escape of these pests.

As in parts of China, lately, so in Armenia, families had to be separated by the sale of children by their own parents. The following facts are given by the *Erivan* correspondent of the *Tiflis* paper, the *Kavkaz*. "The great scarcity of food," he writes, "forces the poorer classes of the population of one district to sell their children for the smallest sum." Thus, in the village of Doogon, a Kurd sold his daughter, 18 years old, for the paltry sum of eleven rubles. A Tartar has bartered his only son for seven measures of flour, and in the village of Tashkoll a child seven years old was sold by her mother for five roubles.

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